

Amendments to the Drawings

Enclosed is replacement sheet 1 showing amendments to FIG. 1.

#### Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-11 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and claims 12-20 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claim 3 is canceled, claims 1 and 10 are amended, and claim 21 is added. No new matter is presented.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-20.

#### Specification/Drawings

The amendment to the specification and drawing corrects instances of inner flowpath to 202 and the outer flowpath to 204 and adds identification of the main piece as 101, the vane pack as 103, and the rebate as 105.

#### Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 101 and 112

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112(2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The rejection erroneously treats a proper hybrid claim as if it had been phrased along the lines of "a swirler and a method of engineering thereof..." In the interest of making the claim formally more palatable, it has been rewritten in independent form. Nevertheless, it remains a valid method claim including reference to apparatus limitations.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office action asserted that the phrase "spacing between adjacent ones of said vanes is essentially spanwise constant" was unclear as to which dimension in the preferred embodiment corresponds to the spacing. The spanwise direction is the direction between the proximal end at the platform 104 and the distal end 114. The vanes are spaced in their array. The objected to language clarifies that the spacing does not change in the spanwise direction (e.g., the distal ends are not closer than the proximal ends). With the original broad claim 1, for example, dependent claim 2 was consistent with the vanes extending longitudinally and thus having a radially

outward facing inlet. If clarification is believed required, Applicants request a telephone interview between the examiner and the undersigned to discuss.


Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected as being anticipated by Cheshire et al. (US3682390), Thibault, Jr. et al. (US5253478), and Parker (US6415610). Claims 7-9 were rejected as being anticipated by Cheshire et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

These all appear to relate to greatly different configurations than that of the present invention and its immediate predecessors. For example, the three references merely involve a basic radial array of vanes in a longitudinal flowpath. The foregoing amendment to claim 1 clearly distinguishes such a configuration and further incorporates the spanwise changing chord of claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and further examination are requested. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

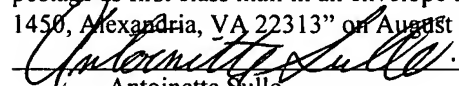
By   
William B. Slate  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No.: 37,238

Telephone: 203-777-6628  
Telefax: 203-865-0297

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Enclosure: Replacement Sheet 1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 15, 2007

  
Antoinette Sullo